



DATE: February 27, 2023

TO: Transportation Committee

FROM: Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy & Division Advisor, The Alliance

RE: [S.B. 1080](#): An Act Concerning Transportation Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities

Good afternoon, Senator Cohen, Representative Lemar, Senator Hwang, Representative Kennedy and distinguished members of the Transportation Committee.

My name is Julia Wilcox, Senior Public Policy & Division Advisor at the CT Community Nonprofit Alliance (The Alliance). The Alliance is the statewide association representing community nonprofits. Community nonprofits provide essential services to over half a million individuals and families in Connecticut every year, and employ 115,000 Connecticut workers, improving the quality of life in communities across the State.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1080: An Act Concerning Transportation Services for Persons with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities. We commend the members of the committee for your vision and support of policies which have the potential for significantly positive impact on the lives of persons with disabilities.

S.B. 1080 seeks to increase transportation services for persons with intellectual or developmental disabilities who receive services from the Department of Developmental Services, by providing fare-free bus public transportation services and reduced fares for intrastate rail services. The bill would require request for proposals for nonmedical transportation services to offer such services, expanding access to travel training programs and issuing removable windshield placards to the caregivers.

For many, the inability to drive presents enormous barriers. Whether personally or professionally, transportation is a lifeline for finding and maintaining employment, gathering socially in the community, and even completing necessary, routine errands. The bill would address both the lack of access and expense related to one of the essential needs for persons with disabilities to maintain their optimal level of independence.

Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of S.B. 1080. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or recommendations:

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Appendix: [Alliance Issues Brief](#): CT Needs More Services for People with Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities